

Dear Committee on Environment,

I am writing regarding HB 5734 and Proposed Bill No. 38 – an act providing funding for Urban Oaks Organic Farm in New Britain. I am a longtime supporter of Urban Oaks Organic Farm – an educator, health coach and bestselling cookbook author – and have been bringing people to this farm for over a decade to teach them about real food, grown from green plants and not processing plants, and how and why that supports good health. Urban Oaks provides essential education, connection and nourishment far beyond the bounty of nutritious produce they grow and provide to their own community and the region.

Urban Oaks is a model for a sustainable food system and sustainable good health for our communities and environment. Their farm stand is a thriving year-round food hub that supports area farmers as well as offering one-stop shopping that is unparalleled outside of multi-vendor seasonal farmers markets. Their myriad programs and educational opportunities at the farm and throughout the local school system create awareness of healthy eating and empowers their community to make healthy choices that otherwise wouldn't exist in New Britain or the surrounding communities. Best of all, Urban Oaks demonstrates year after year a commitment to making seasonal produce and healthy eating accessible and affordable to all.

I believe strongly that a commitment from the state of annual financial support would allow Urban Oaks to continue the essential work described above and to expand their offerings to further serve the good health of this community, region and our environment.

Once again, I ask you to support providing funding to Urban Oaks Organic Farm in New Britain.

Thank you.

Terry

**Terry Walters, LLC**